

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of September 30, 2004. By this Amendment, claims 1- 31 are in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 11-17 were rejected over certain references; while claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 were objected to as being based on a rejected base claims, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciate that the Patent Office has indicated that certain subject matter is patentable. Upon review of the cited references, Applicant has made certain changes to the claims to put this case in condition for allowance.

In particular, Applicant points out that the receiving channel "Q" in Cochrane appears to be an L-shaped shoulder, that only inwardly and endwardly supports the mouth of the inlet scoop piece. There is no **outward** support of the mouth of the inlet scoop piece by the outlet scoop piece. Such outer support makes it easy to align and quickly assemble the inlet and outlet scoop pieces (also see, e.g., Specification, page 7, lines 27-30 and Figures 2 and 5).

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 17 have been amended to further bring out this feature. Claim 1, for example, recites the receiving channel in the outlet scoop piece outwardly bounds and supports the mouth of the inlet scoop piece. Claims 7, 13 and 17 are similar and recite that the receiving channel radially inwardly and radially outwardly bounds and supports the mouth. Claims 2, 8 and 27 further bring out the structure of the outlet scoop

piece and lip that bounds and supports the mouth of the inlet scoop piece; while claim 14 similarly brings out the structure of the outlet scoop piece. New claims 19, 23 and 28 further bring out the bead on the mouth and that the bead is inwardly and outwardly supported. It is believed these claims properly define the invention in a way which is not shown or suggested in the art.

Claims 3 and 9 have been amended, as it was noticed that the word "end wall" did not have antecedent basis. Nevertheless, these claims should continue to be allowable. The limitation of the "end wall" from these claims has been brought out in new claims 21 and 24, which should likewise be allowable. New claim 29 is similar, and should likewise be allowable.

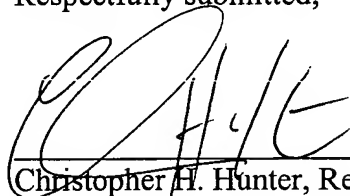
New claims 18, 22, 25 and 30 bring out the structure of the mouth, which is also not shown in the cited references. New claims 20, 26 and 31 bring out that the lip is unitary with the inlet scoop piece. This also differentiates over the cited art, as Cochraine, for example, shows such lip integral with the outlet scoop piece.

The undersigned has also reviewed the various objections to the Declaration, drawings and specification, and appreciates these being brought to his attention. By this Amendment, the errors have been corrected. Applicant would like to point out that the Filing Receipt for this application shows a filing date of August 13, 2002, however, upon review of the Express Mail invoice and the Certificate of Mailing, it is the undersigned's belief that the case should be accorded a filing date of August 14, 2002, which is correctly identified on the original Declaration. A Request for a Corrected Filing receipt is being made contemporaneously herewith.

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In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims in the application patently distinguish over the cited art and should be in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner continue to believe otherwise, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes it would result in a furtherance of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHH', is written over a horizontal line.

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In the Drawings:

Please replace the drawings currently in the application with the enclosed drawings.
Also provided is a copy of the drawings showing the changes being made in red.